

REMARKS

In the present response, claims 18-20 and 28-31 are canceled, claims 21-27 are amended, and claims 1-12 and 14-17 were previously canceled, thereby leaving claims 13 and 21-27 pending in the application.

In the Office action, claims 18, 24 and 27 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0012613 (Scordato). Claims 19, 20, 22-23 and 25 are rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable and obvious over Scordato in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,656,351 (Raczak) and claim 26 is rejected as being unpatentable and obvious over Scordato in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,099,548 (Sturm). Further, claims 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as introducing new subject matter. Claims 18-20 and 28-31 have been canceled; therefore, the rejection to those claims is moot.

Applicants graciously acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of claim 13 and, if rewritten in independent form, claim 21. Claim 21 has been rewritten as an independent claim to include the limitations of base claim 18 and intervening claims 19-20. Claims 22-27 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 21.

In view of the amendments presented herein, Applicants believe that the claims as filed are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a timely Notice of Allowance be issued for this case. Applicants kindly request that the Examiner telephone the attorney of record in the event a telephone discussion would be helpful in advancing the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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